

LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation

"Our mission is to make Christ known, by providing spiritual nourishment, ministering to physical needs, and sharing the Gospel."

Rev. David A. Little, Pastor

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org

email: pastor@littletonbaptistchurch.org

email: office@littletonbaptistchurch.org

(252) 586-5330



DECEMBER 2022

Vol. 46 No. 12

IN MEMORY

Betty West Neville

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

I love Christmas. Whether it is the carols that we sing, the wonderful movies, family time, and of course the wonderful Christmas story. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. I cannot wait to share another Christmas season with each of you as this will be our FIFTH Christmas together. O how time flies when you are having fun!

I remember one of the first things that happened after I moved to Littleton was WRAL coming to do their special on our beautiful Nativity Scene. As I was thinking about Christmas with our 150th anniversary coming up next year it got me thinking about what I could do with Advent.

Then it hit me how many lessons we can learn as we truly think about that first Christmas. As we look at the nativity scene it really does teach us. So, this year, we will be looking at different lessons that we can learn from the stable about why we celebrate Christmas and what makes it so special.

We kicked off Advent at the end of last month by looking at the purpose of Jesus coming. We continue that series the first Sunday of December by looking how Jesus came when no one expected it. There are many unpredictable elements in the Christmas story, and we will be looking at them and how it can better prepare us for Christmas.

The second Sunday we will be looking at how there was no room at the inn for Mary & Joseph and that pattern repeats today where in our modern world we make no room for Christ at Christmas. The third Sunday of December, which is the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be looking at how maybe Christmas wasn't as silent as we think it might have been. What sounds were going on? It truly is going to be a wonderful Advent this year.

But WAIT THERE'S MORE! Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and Laura and I are planning on making our time of worship Christmas Day extra special. There will be plenty of opportunities to hear the wonderful Christmas story and sing our favorite hymns as we proclaim our savior's birth. Could there be a better way to celebrate Christmas than gathering together with our church family and worshipping Christ?

I look forward to celebrating Christmas again with Littleton Baptist Church. I cannot wait to see what Christ is going to do this year and in the future. But let us make sure our focus stays on him this year and what he can teach us from that beautiful stable.

Grace and Peace,

David



DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8:30 Exercise	3
4 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Lunch/Shopping	5 8:30 Exercise	6	7 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	8	9 8:30 Exercise	10
11 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Deacon's Meeting 5:00 Youth Christmas Party	12 8:30 Exercise	13	14 8:30 Exercise 5:30 Christmas Caroling 6:15 Adult Choir	15	16 8:30 Exercise	17 10:00 John 3:16 Christmas Party
18 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Christmas Cantata	19 8:30 Exercise	20	21 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	22	23 8:30 Exercise	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00 Worship 	26	27	28 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	29	30 8:30 Exercise	31



It's the magical time of the year! The time when we are busy shopping, cooking, wrapping gifts, decorating, and listening to Christmas music! It is definitely my favorite time of year!

The Adult Choir will be singing some of that beautiful music on **December 18th** at 5:30 P.M. Our Christmas Cantata is entitled **SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!** You will hear some new songs along with some of the traditional Christmas carols. The children will be joining us during the Cantata to sing the most beloved and cherished carol of all time - Silent Night. We hope you are able to join us on this special night!

I want to welcome Lydia Lanser to the Adult Choir. Also, I want to welcome back Mary Beth Labrecque and Arlene Merritt! We are one of the rare choirs that are growing in number and this fills my heart with joy!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!!

Laura



Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Saturday, **December 24th**, at 5:00 P.M. Join us for this service as we light the Christ candle and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service will be available virtually on Facebook.



Christmas Day Worship Service

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, which means we are blessed to gather and worship to celebrate our Savior's birth. We will have a special worship time at 10:00 A.M. with no Sunday School.



Young Family Bible Study

Our families with young children are invited to our December Bible Study on **December 7th** at 6:00 P.M. It will be a special time as we celebrate Christmas together.



Merry Christmas
from your church staff!



Christmas Cards

The Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins **Sunday, December 4th**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



After worship on **December 4th**, youth will be leaving to go have lunch and then shopping for the John 3:16 Christmas Outreach.

On **December 11th** youth will have our annual Christmas party with a gift exchange. Please bring a gift of no more than \$15.00.



DEACONS MEETING

Deacons will meet on Sunday, **December 11th**, following Morning Worship.



OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Again this year we will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering in support of CBF Missions around the world. The offering will be received at a special ingathering on **December 18th** as we place our offering on the Chrismon Tree near the conclusion of morning worship. All during December there will be highlights about Global Missions to better inform you how the message of Christ is being carried around the world by CBF Missionaries and Affiliates. Please use the prayer guides to pray diligently and give generously. Your support makes a world of difference!



Our church will be sending cards to cheer up people who will be away from home at Christmas. If you know of anyone in the community who has family or friends that will be away from home such as military personnel or missionaries, please give their name and address to Sid Shearin. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on **December 4th & 11th**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually!



THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

Join us for our Sunday Morning Worship.
If you can't be with us at church then join us
online for our Virtual Worship Service on
Facebook Live at 11:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 4

Lessons From The Stable - Unpredictability

Luke 1:26-38

Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 11

Lessons From The Stable - Making Room

Luke 2:4-7

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 18

Lessons From The Stable - The Silence

Luke 2:19-20

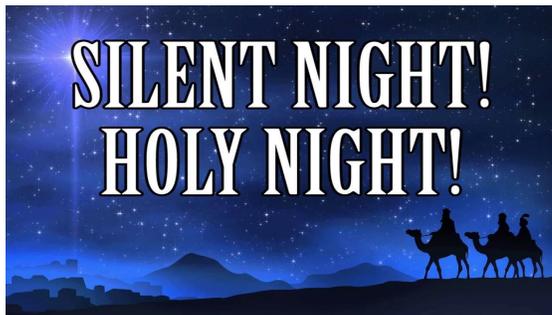
Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 25

Welcome To Our World

Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day



**DECEMBER 18, 2022
5:30 PM**

ADULT CHOIR CANTATA

DIRECTED BY LAURA KEARNEY

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
SERVICE, JOIN THE HOSPITALITY
COMMITTEE FOR A TIME OF FOOD**



On Wednesday, **December 14th**, you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 5:30 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our homebound.



Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 18th**, beginning at 9:00 A.M. This breakfast will extend into the Sunday School hour. After breakfast we will take some time for celebration and thanksgiving. We hope you will be present for this time of fellowship hosted by the Missions Committee.



The Flower Committee would like to thank the congregation for all of their support to help make our church auditorium beautiful with all the wonderful flowers and all of the other Christmas decorations. The loving and caring nature of our congregation is what makes it so special. Thank you for being you!

This is such a special time of the year. God's love is everywhere. Never forget how God sent his son to earth to save us from our sins! We are so blessed!



OUR NATIVITY SCENE HISTORY

In less than one year, Littleton Baptist will celebrate 150 years of ministry. This month we feature the nativity scene ministry. Each year this beautiful lifelike Nativity Display is viewed by hundreds and allows them to see its beauty but more importantly to worship Christ.

How did it come to be? The scene came as a generous gift from two longtime members, Julian and Indie Parks, who created and designed its lifelike features in 1963. They wanted their children to understand the true meaning of Christmas. The nativity scene features life-size people and animals that were hand stitched and stuffed with hay bales. The year that the Parks made the scene, they entered a contest featuring lawn Christmas decorations and won the grand prize of \$25.00!

Every year since 2008, the nativity scene has been on display at LBC during December. It includes the stable, fence, life size camels, and sheep as well as the wise men, shepherds, and the angel. These all focus on baby Jesus in the manger surrounded by Mary and Joseph. They are all clothed in garments reminiscent of the times. It is brilliantly displayed for all who pass. In fact, at first glance, it looks alive.

What a gift which has been viewed and impacted by many. In the early years of its display, my wife Ann was in her Roanoke Rapids classroom as the children talked about Christmas when one of her students raised his hand and said, "everybody must go to Littleton to see the wonderful Nativity Scene displayed there. It's so real." He did this having no idea that his teacher was married to the pastor. The impact is far and wide and in 2018 was featured on WRAL-TV Tarheel Traveler. It can be found on the WRAL website and will be displayed on the LBC Facebook page.

We hope to continue the tradition they started by using this wonderful nativity scene so that people who drive by can understand the true meaning of Christmas. We pray that it is reminder that the birth of Christ is the reason we celebrate.

Mike Curvin



JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The John 3:16 Center will again be doing a Toy Drive for children at Christmas as well as offering an opportunity to sponsor a child for \$100. Each sponsored child will receive: A complete outfit (including socks, shoes, and underwear), 4 toys (including a puzzle or game), a book, hygiene products, a snack pack, meeting with Santa, hot meal and a Bible.

Another option is to support our youth in their project. For many years, our youth have collected money and toy shopped for our church members. If you'd like to contribute to the "shopping spree," they will be collecting after the worship service at the door on **November 20th, 27th** and **December 4th**. Your support of these projects will be greatly appreciated by our youth, the center and the children who receive your gifts. We'll be shopping on **December 4th** and we thank you in advance for your support.

The John 3:16 Center is in need of volunteers to assist parents who are part of the J316 Christmas Outreach Program to help choose presents for their children. They will need help setting up the "Christmas Shoppe" in transporting items from the Center to Littleton United Methodist Church (LUMC) on December 7th. While shopping, parents will also need assistance in wrapping presents for their children at LUMC on **December 8th & 9th, and then December 12th-15th** from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. Volunteers will need to sign up for at least a one-to-two-hour period on one or more of these days. Volunteers are also needed to assist with our Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 17th** with parking, serving food, assisting Santa, and mingling with the families. For more information or to sign up to help call the Center at (252) 586-1800 or see Sara Little.

Littleton Baptist Church
P. O. Box 216
Littleton, NC 27850



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY SCHEDULE</u>
7 Kay Beaver 9 Carol Meyer 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha Hall 16 Claire Council (9 yrs) 17 Nicholas Pulliam 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 24 Virginia Lee 26 Carly West	21 Tom & Til Tremper (48 yrs)	4 Sara Council/Jan Myrick 11 Melinda Harris/Sandra Lynch 18 Melinda Harris/Thad Harris 25 Amanda Coffman/Bob Thompson
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Mike Crawley